

Erie County Human Relations Commission
Minutes – April 25, 2016

Attendance

Commissioners: Bob Howden, George Morgan, Jim Wandless, Luisa Heifner, Judy Jobes (by phone)

Staff: Joe Aguglia, and Charlotte Scalise

Meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of Feb. 22 meeting was made by George Morgan, seconded by Jim Wandless (no quorum at the March meeting). Unanimous approval

Directors Report

Old Business

Joe Aguglia reported that the county Fair Housing testing is continuing and should be completed soon. A second location needed to be selected as an alternative to Girard due to lack of appropriate properties. Joe added that \$6,900 has been received from Millcreek Township for testing to be conducted there. That testing will be done as soon as possible. Given this pending new round of testing, the Commission decided to not publicly release any testing results until all of the testing has been completed. Joe also reported that no funds were received this year from the city for housing studies.

Charlotte Scalise reminded Commissioners that the annual HRC Housing Seminar will be this Wednesday, April 27, at the Hirt Auditorium. A good attendance is expected. All Commissioners are invited to attend.

Charlotte also reported that the HRC was present at both the March 4 Attorney General's Consumer Fair, and the April 21 Veteran's Fair sponsored by Sen. Sean Wiley. Turnout at both events was good.

Charlotte added that the annual HRC Employment Seminar is set for June 23 at the Ambassador Conference Center.

New Business

Two new members of the Commission were welcomed to their first meeting. They are Luisa Heifer (appointed by County Councilman Jay Breneman) and James Wandless (appointed by County Councilman Fiore Leone). Both new members have served on the Advisory Board. One vacancy on the Commission still needs to be filled.

Bob Howden noted that public comments made at a County Council meeting about Erie's rating in the national Human Relations Commission Municipal Equality Index were not accurate remarks. Bob explained the report and rating criteria.

Joe Aguglia reported that Heidi Meyer is no longer with the Commission. She recently resigned to accept another job in the private sector. It is believed that her position will be filled.

Joe Aguglia relayed to the Commissioners conversations initiated by County Councilman Fiore Leone regarding the Commission's operations and services. A discussion about these conversations/issues followed. The Commissioners also discussed ways to possibly increase the number of cases referred to the HRC for investigation.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by George Morgan and seconded by Luisa Heifner.

Meeting ended at 7:01 p.m.